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House of Representatives
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June 10, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I am writing to you regarding the recent surge in illegal immigrants that are crossing the US-Mexico border into Texas. I am very concerned that recent actions by the Administration can be viewed as promoting amnesty and are a source of the dramatic surge in illegal border crossings. Furthermore, I am concerned that the surge in illegal immigrants is placing significant strain on the Border Patrol and other resources.

Recent press reports indicate that thousands of illegal immigrants were flown from Texas to Arizona. Why was DHS unable to return them to their country of origin rather than transport them from Texas to Arizona? Within the last year, how many illegal immigrants have been transported from Texas to other states rather than being transported directly to their home countries? With respect to the recently reported transports from Texas to Arizona, how much did it cost the taxpayer to transport each illegal alien?

Arizona state officials have complained that many illegal immigrants were recently released at bus stations in Phoenix and Tucson without any advanced notification from DHS. I would appreciate your assurance that DHS will not conduct any similar releases of illegal immigrants in Texas, especially without any notification to state and local officials.

Due to the reported lack of resources to deal with the surge in illegal immigrants, did DHS fail to anticipate certain needs to deal with the surge of illegal immigrants? If so, how has DHS learned from this experience and what is being done to ensure that the surge of illegal immigrants does not pose greater national security implications for our country?

Lastly, I would appreciate hearing from you regarding the causes of the surge in illegal immigrants. It has been widely reported that many prospective illegal immigrants are being told that they can be granted amnesty if they make it to the United States. This is especially true with regard to minors due to misinformation that they receive about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA does not address the problem of illegal immigration and only incentivizes more of it. According to *The New York Times*, federal officials project that the number of unaccompanied minors entering

the U.S. illegally in 2014 will be over 80,000. This is in comparison to 6,560 in 2011 and 13,625 in 2012 (the year that Deferred Action was first announced), and it represents a shocking increase of ten times the annual average from the last decade.

Thank you for your review of this correspondence and I look forward to receiving your prompt reply. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me, or my Legislative Director, Scott Cunningham, at 202.225.6605 or scott.cunningham@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress